



News Release

IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES

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Director Signs Order Creating Upper Salmon Water District

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IDWR Director Karl Dreher has signed a Final Order creating an Upper Salmon River Water District designated as Water District No. 170 effective yesterday.

The new District encompasses Basins 71 and 72 in the Stanley and Challis areas. The Director also proposes expanding the District to include Basins 73, 74, and 75 in 2007 – in the Pahsimeroi Valley, Lemhi Valley, and the Salmon area after the Snake River Basin Adjudication District Court authorizes administration of water rights in those basins. (See the attached map)

State law requires the Director to divide the state into water districts for the purpose of distributing water among users and to administer water rights in accordance with the prior appropriation doctrine established by Idaho law.

In October 2005, the Director signed a notice proposing to establish an Upper Salmon Water District. Notices were sent by registered mail to all water rights holders in the proposed district. In November 2005, the Director held a public hearing on the proposal in Challis.

Water District No. 170 includes all surface water and ground water rights in Basins 71 and 72, other than domestic and stock water rights defined under I.C. § 42-111 and 42-1401A(11).

Water Districts already existing in Basin 72 will continue to operate as sub-districts in Water District No. 170 and will continue to elect watermasters and adopt budgets.

Anyone interested in reading the Final Order establishing Water District No. 170 can find it posted on the IDWR website: www.idwr.idaho.gov Orders are listed as a sub-menu item under “News”.

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ATTACHMENT A

